



TORREYANA

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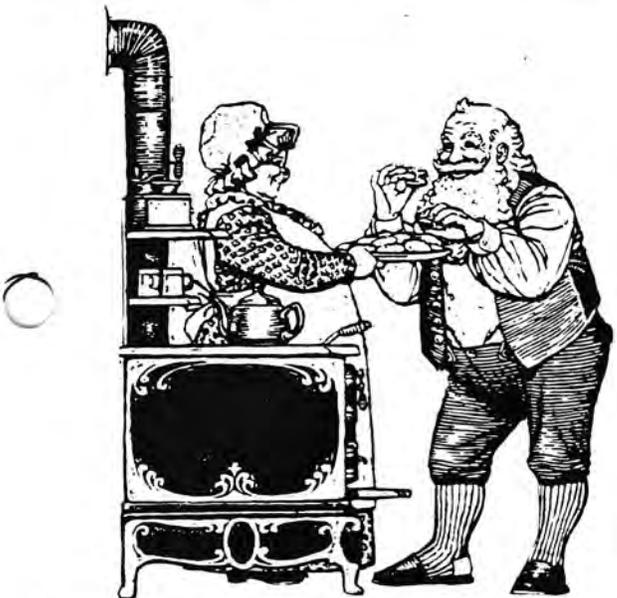
TORREY PINE DOCENTS PLAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Happy holidays! Don't miss our annual pot-luck party on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 9:00 A.M., Visitor Center. Bring your favorite Brunch casserole, salad, fruit, fancy bread or cookies to share. "Docent of the Year" and other awards will be given.

Judy and Tom Carlstrom will bring their dulcimers and entertain with Christmas and folk music, and there will be a reading by Ruth Hand.

Come with food, singing voices, family, and smiling faces!

Call Julie Marine, 755-5598, for further information.

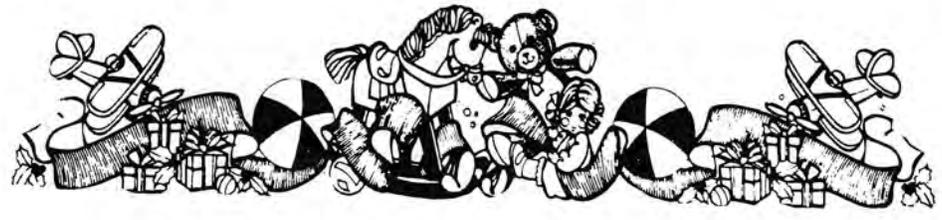


SHARE YOUR VACATION!

Docents are needed for duty the week between Christmas and New Years, Sat., Dec. 25th through Jan. 1st, at least one person each day, preferably more. Call Ruth Hand, 459-9020, to sign up.

DUES DUE SOON!

Dues are due in January. Why not bring them along to the Christmas party? Only \$3.00 for Voting members and Associates. \$10 for our Supporting members. Same bargain as last year!



Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine



Our November Docent meeting was attended by docents, visitors, and park staff, (total: 27). Pres. Judy Schulman awarded several door prizes, then welcomed back former Park Aide and docent member, Piper Lindsay, who brought her pet ferret, Farley. Piper is currently a Park Ranger at Lake Perris. Nice to have Piper with us again!

Pres. Judy gave a report on the Torrey Pines Reserve and State Beach prospectus. The time for writing letters on future improvements has been extended till Christmas week, '82. Write to Bob Hare, State Parks Interpretive Planning Office, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, CA. 95811. Copies of the first draft of the Interpretive prospectus for T.P.S.R. and Beach, for your review, are in the Rangers' office. Some suggestions are- to build a Beach Interpretive Center, new nature trails in the lagoon area, a new entrance on the south side of the Reserve, improvements at North Beach and a pedestrian foot-bridge over the lagoon.

Vice-President, Bill Brothers, introduced our guest speaker, Assistant Professor, Steven Crouthamel, who teaches Indian Studies at Palomar College, also Medical Anthropology of Indian peoples. An excellent slide show and presentation!

The following ditty used to be on Helen Chamlee's desk. It came out in the Natural History Museum's publication, Environment Southwest.

There should be no monotony
In understanding botany.
It helps to train
And stir your brain
Unless you haven't gotany.



MORE CANYON NEIGHBORS by Judy Carlstrom

On a recent Saturday morning my father-in-law's visit was "made" by his encounter with a desert tarantula, as big as my hand, strolling down the pathway of our canyon. We were all enthralled, including my youngest (15 months) who was hard-pressed not to fondle the furry beast. The tarantula seemed unafraid, and when we stepped to the other side of his intended direction he sauntered onward, eventually turning and disappearing into the grass. On Docent Day later that morning, I scurried around looking for information on tarantulas. They are nocturnal. So why was he out during the day? Trap door spider males will often be seen out looking for a mate after heavy rains. (It was after a heavy rain that day.) Hank says that tarantula males will also journey forth in the light of day to search for a mate in August. (This was November.) Any answers? More interesting trivia: Captive females can live 20-35 years, but males do not molt and hence have a shorter life span. Their bite is equivalent to a wasp or bee sting.

If you've seen one redwood, you may have seen them all. If you've seen one Torrey pine you haven't even started. Torrey pines are so varied that it almost seems impossible to have infinite forms with a very finite number of trees. This variety of form helps the Torrey pine to be among the most photogenic of trees. But for all its beauty, the Torrey pine makes a poor, Charlie Brown type Christmas tree.

Evergreen conifers aren't the only botanical symbols of Christmas. There's mistletoe, poinsettia, and, of course, holly. The traditional holly is the "English" which is really from southern and central Europe. There are other hollies from Europe, Asia, and the Americas. One from Paraguay, yerba mate, has caffeine which makes it the only real substitute for tea or coffee. There's no native holly in Southern California. The desert holly is a saltbush, and the California holly is our own Heteromeles arbutifolia, the Toyon.

Toyon is more than a substitute for holly. It has a lot more berries than any real holly, and it has no spikes on the leaves. Toyon berries are great decorations for a Christmas tree or a wreath. Unfortunately, in these parts, the berries are better between Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving than they are at Christmas. Toyon can be pruned into many shapes. One night in Monterey I saw oaks along the road. The next day I looked again. The "oaks" were 20 ft. tall toyons with foot thick trunks. Mostly toyons are kept as medium sized bushes or allowed to grow into smallish trees. Toyon is beautiful wherever it may be, but it is not photogenic.

Since we are getting ready to put new displays in the Visitor Center, and, since toyon is one of the more impressive chaparral plants, I thought I should get some pictures that would do it justice. I took my camera around the Guy Fleming Trail. I searched Parry Grove. I went to Razor Point and Broken Hill. I looked at toyon in the shade. I looked at toyon in the sun. I took a lot of pictures. Some of them are all right, but I still haven't found the perfect toyon. The search goes on. Merry Christmas, berry.

Hank



ANIMAL TALK

GREAT HORNED OWL (Bubo Virginianus)

My daughter Linda used to present nature programs in the public schools for the "Wildlife Rescue Center". Her traveling companion and the "star" of her programs was a live, Great Horned Owl named Socrates. Unlike his namesake Socrates was not very big in the brain department. Linda's first stop of the day was to go to the Wildlife Center to pick up Socrates. Sharing a large cage with about 15 other Great Horned Owls who looked almost identical, he should have been hard to find, but he wasn't. Linda would walk slowly around the enclosure, stopping briefly to look at each owl, who glared back at her in wide-eyed silence...all that is, but Socrates. Knowing that Linda's presence meant that he was going to have to "go to work", he protested by clacking his beak and hissing, thereby giving himself away. But....later that day...perched on the back of one of the school chairs, with 35 adoring children for an audience, he was the picture of stoic dignity.

Rightfully called the largest horned owl in the world, (18"-24" high), they also possess some other remarkable and noteworthy physical assets. They are reputed to have the finest eyesight of any creature on earth, in fact their eyesight is 100 times more acute than mans'. Because their eyes are so sensitive to light, the owl prefers to hunt at night, but he can see equally well in the day-time. The owl's eyes are set in the front of his head, and he does not have the ability to move his eyes from side to side. To make up for this minor handicap, he has the largest eardrums of any bird, allowing them to locate their prey in total darkness, entirely by sound!! Because of their acute senses and powerful talons, the Great Horned Owl has few natural enemies!



the owl serves to establish his territory and the other to attract a mate. Great Horned Owls mate for life after going through a series of unique courting rituals. (They often present their prospective mate with a "gift" of a mouse or other tasty morsel.) Their eggs are laid in January or February and hatch 35 days later. The fuzzy little owlets remain in the nest for six weeks while both parents work frantically to keep up with their insatiable appetites. After their young have left the nest, both parents take part in teaching them how to hunt. Although the bulk of the owls' diet is mice and rats, they also eat other birds, rabbits, snakes, frogs, foxes and even find the skunk a most satisfying delicacy. (They seem to be totally immune to the skunks potent chemical warfare.) Although hooting is the sound that is most commonly associated with the owl, they do have other vocalizations. They hiss, grunt, "bark" and sometimes make a loud "idiot" laughter sound that must be heard to be believed. (The first few times I heard it, I thought that my upstairs neighbor had some kind of a "serious problem". Despite the fact that the owl occasionally "borrows" a chicken or two from a farmer, he does more than his share in keeping the rodent population in check, and for this reason, he is protected by law.

The familiar "hooting" of two purposes. One is to establish his territory and the other to attract a mate. Great Horned Owls mate for life after going through a series of unique courting rituals. (They often present their prospective mate with a "gift" of a mouse or other tasty morsel.) Their eggs are laid in January or February and hatch 35 days later. The fuzzy little owlets remain in the nest for six weeks while both parents work frantically to keep up with their insatiable appetites. After their young have left the nest, both parents take part in teaching them how to hunt. Although the bulk of the owls' diet is mice and rats, they also eat other birds, rabbits, snakes, frogs, foxes and even find the skunk a most satisfying delicacy. (They seem to be totally immune to the skunks potent chemical warfare.) Although hooting is the sound that is most commonly associated with the owl, they do have other vocalizations. They hiss, grunt, "bark" and sometimes make a loud "idiot" laughter sound that must be heard to be believed. (The first few times I heard it, I thought that my upstairs neighbor had some kind of a "serious problem". Despite the fact that the owl occasionally "borrows" a chicken or two from a farmer, he does more than his share in keeping the rodent population in check, and for this reason, he is protected by law.

So what if he isn't as smart as Socrates--With all of the other Great things he has going for him.....HE DOESN'T GIVE A HOOT!!.....

— June —

- Written and illustrated by June Warburton



Report from the Ranger



ROCKS-YUK! by Ranger Randy Hawley

"People aren't interested in rocks!" At least that's what a member of the staff informed me when I told him I'd like to simplify the geologic and physiographic history of Torrey Pines State Reserve. Well, I agree, partly. I'm scared off by multi-syllable periods and epochs, and I couldn't tell you the difference between quartz and feldspar if I had to. But what I do find fascinating is the shape and variety of land forms, how they got that way and their effects on other components in our world. Why a rocky promontory like Red Butte and then a deep cut canyon like Fat Man's next to it?

Obviously, the Torrey Pine tree and the story of its preservation are the main topics when discussing the park. These trees are delicate and rare members of the botanical family. But their existence and extinction are at the whim of the land and its forms. All plants are, all animals are, and we are. Adapting to what the environment provides allows all things to survive. Failure of a species to do so results in extinction. It is on this premise that Darwin's Theory of Evolution is based.

Even the weather is determined by the type of geography an air mass passes over. Cold air passing over mountains drops its moisture as it climbs in elevation, leaving nothing for the leeward slopes, resulting in a desert. Santa Ana's winds are compressed and heated as they rush from high elevations to sea level. The sea is the birthplace of weather, but land shapes determine its form. The ocean is consistency where the land is variety.

Plants can only grow in areas where their specific needs for sunlight, moisture, soil type, temperature and wind protection are met. Animals may migrate or relocate as the environment changes. Plants must adapt or perish. The variety of land forms at T.P.S.R. is directly responsible for the variety of plant life.

The Torrey Pine is a perfect example of how a plant is facing extinction because it has failed to adapt to a wider environment. A few assumptions might be made as to why they are surviving in such a limited area. The shape of the coastline has created a "fog pocket" which seems to provide the right amount of moisture in the proper form. The trees appear to grow well near the coast and not where rain is so prevalent. The elevation of the bluffs raises the trees into the low clouds which are so common in the area. They do not like a saturated soil but need a damp environment which the moist air provides. The granular Torrey sandstone is probably the proper consistency to provide needed nutrients, adequate drainage and root penetration. The Broken Hill area, which is dominated by the iron rich, hardened marsh deposits of the Linda Vista Terrace supports little or no Torrey Pine growth. Neither does the salt laden silt of the marsh.

The Torrey Pine seems to have a narrow range of adaptability for moisture and soil. But the same is not true when dealing with wind exposure. Each individual tree has shown the ability to adapt to its own unique location in regards to wind. The trees near the North Overlook on the Guy Fleming Trail have grown into

a low, sloping canopy as a result of unobstructed air flow up the bluffs from the sea. The wind is relatively constant in velocity and direction. Pines in the west facing canyons and their slopes where gusts vary in intensity and direction have curled and twisted their branches. Eastern slopes provide a wind break and encourage straight growth pattern. Trees near the top of the ridge grow in a direct pattern also.

Plants of all types flourish only so long as the terrain provides proper requirements for survival. The availability of vegetation dictates the chances of survival for animals which rely on them for food and habitation.

Man has shown he can adapt to a wide range of life zones. He has also shown the ability to alter landforms to increase his areas of habitation. But he also knows that floods, landslides, tsunamis, surf and earthquakes have the final word on his survivability.

Getting to Know You

Greg Hackett and Randy Hawley,
State Park Rangers

"You've been assigned to Torrey Pines". These are the words that every San Diego Coast Area Ranger wants to hear. Luckily for Greg Hackett and myself they were said to us. Kathy and John have been assigned to the campgrounds and we will take their places for the upcoming year. (Yes, John still lives in the Fleming house!)

Greg is from Arcadia, Ca. and is a graduate of S.D.S.U.. He was working as a Ski Patrolman for Mammoth Mt. Ski Resort and as a white water river guide before becoming a State Park Ranger in Sept. of 1980. The last two years have been spent working at S. Carlsbad S.B.

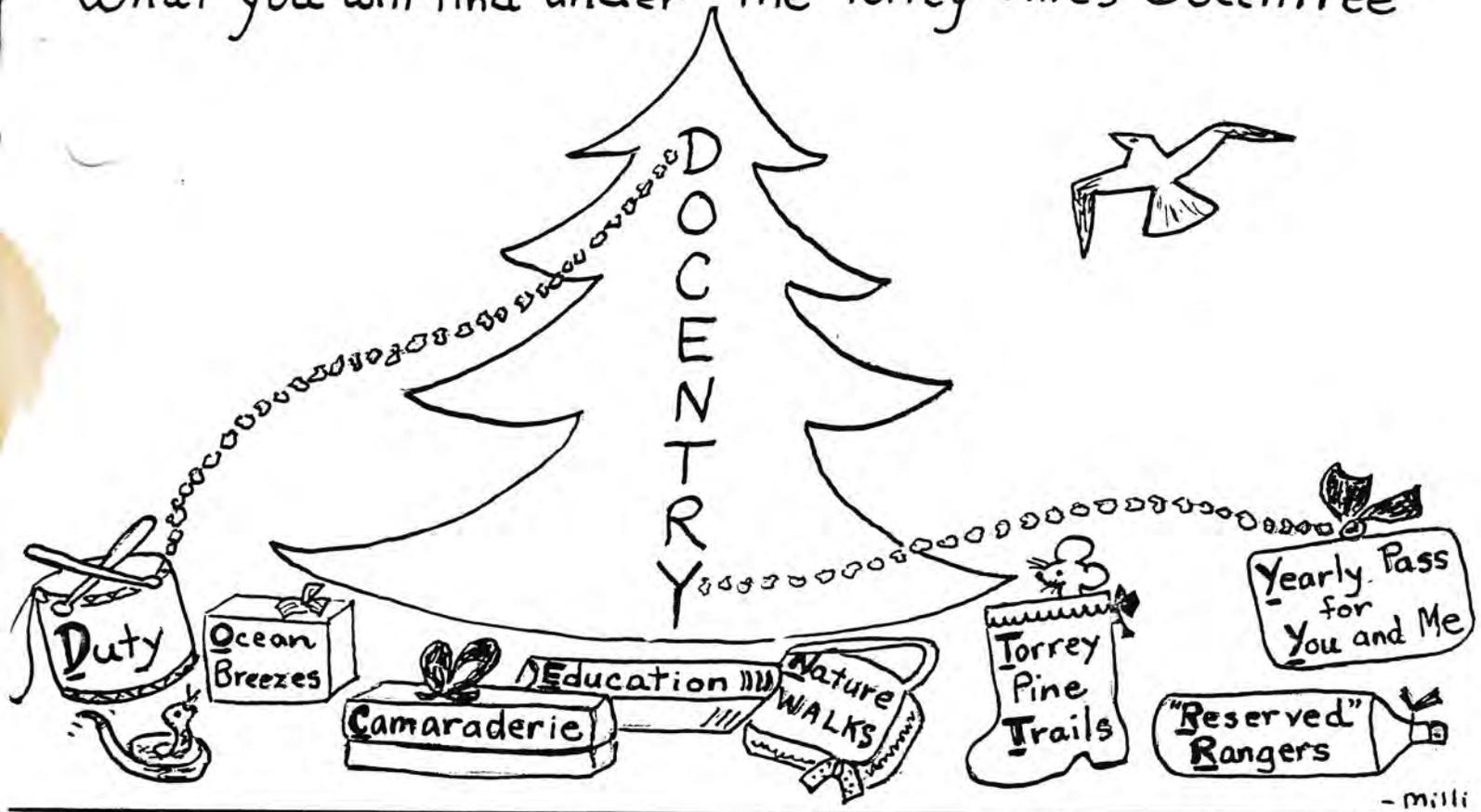
Like Greg, I am also from southern Calif, Ventura, a graduate of S.D.S.U. and began work full time in Sept. of '80. Prior to that I worked as a Park Aid at Silver Strand and McGrath Beaches, and with the Y.M.C.A. at Camp Surf in Imperial Beach. San Elijo S.B. has been "home" for the last two years.

We are both hoping to share ideas and energies with all of you, and we're lloking forward to the upcoming year. It's great to be in a REAL PARK!



When the Holy Family was pursued by Herod's soldiers, at one time they were so close behind the family, that they had to take refuge in the trees beside the road. As they quickly left the road, they stepped on the broom plant which was so brittle that it snapped and crackled. For this it was condemned to become a broom to sweep the dirt, to become a switch for naughty children, and a chariot for a witch. The Holy Family then approached a Poplar tree, but it was so afraid it started to rustle and shake. So it was condemned to shiver for all eternity. A friendly old pine spread its branches to reveal a hollow in which the family could hide. Immediately the spiders came and covered the tree with silvery webs to further protect those within. (Our tinsel is a reminder). To this day the Lazaret Fathers in Egypt revere this tree, and all over the world the pine is welcomed as the Christmas tree.

What you will find under the Torrey Pines "Docentree"



Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

Ever so often on one of my walks, someone will mention that he or she would think it would be a lot of fun to have a squirrel or some other type of wild creature for a pet. My usual response is to somehow discourage them. This article from the November, 1982, newsletter of the San Diego Humane Society and S.P.C.A. gives some good reasons why wild animals were not meant to be kept as pets.

A WILD ANIMAL FOR A PET? NO!

There are many animals that do not make good pets! For example, most wild animals, although they may appear tame when they're young, usually they become wild when they grow older; many exotic animals sold in pet stores need special diets and care that very few people know how to give. It is very sad to raise a young animal when you know you can't keep it when it grows up.

If you take a wild animal from his mother and keep him in captivity he will not have the ability to look after himself when he is released to live alone in the forest — and you will have to let him go, for sooner or later he will feel the urge to leave you. When this happens he will snap and bite as he struggles to adjust to captivity. If he is unprepared for life in the wild when he is released he will face a terrifying experience that will probably end only with his death. He will be unable to feed himself, he will not know where to hide — or who to hide from. Even his own kind will find him "strange" and will harass him.

Wild animals love freedom. They know how to take care of themselves in the wild and many of them die when they lose their freedom. The best way to enjoy wild animals is to watch them. Leave all wild animal babies, including birds, where they are in woods or fields. The parents are usually hiding close by or are out looking for food.

Sometimes you may want to bring a wild animal home or take it to school for study. Other times you may find an injured animal. A good rule to follow is: let the animal go loose after no more than one day in captivity. That will give you plenty of time to study it. If your animal is injured, let it go as soon as it is well.

Don't take a wild creature from his natural life in the woods just to gratify your wish for an unusual pet. Don't make a wild creature dependent upon you. Enjoy him in his own natural habitat, watch him there and learn from him there, but leave him free to grow wild.

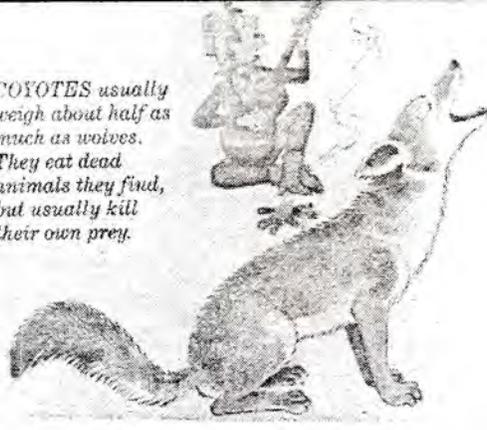
When you're in the woods, remember

TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES,
LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS,
KILL NOTHING BUT TIME.



TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
 PRESIDENT- Judy Schulman
 Deadline for Torreyana copy
 the 25th of each month.
 Send contributions to:
 Millicent Horger, EDITOR
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COYOTES usually weigh about half as much as wolves. They eat dead animals they find, but usually kill their own prey.



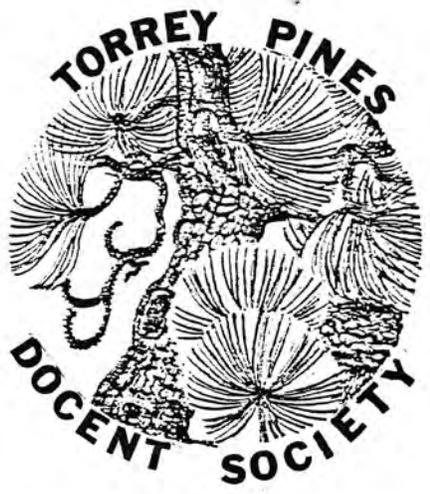
COYOTE
 By Jason Bolles

When February drifts were deep
 Coyote came and killed a sheep.
 I think it was in April when
 We found and dug Coyote's den.
 Coyote came among the flowers
 In June and took six hens of ours.
 One August night when stars were dim
 We set a poisoned bait for him.
 Next month we heard Coyote laugh
 when dining on an orphan calf.
 November-time, among the haws
 Our trap caught three coyote claws.
 The year came on to Christmas day.
 Beyond the barn a little way
 We saw Coyote in the snow.
 I raised my gun- and Dad said, "No!"
 Then, "Merry Christmas, you old cuss,
 Tomorrow peel your eye for us!"
 That night we heard the boggy wail
 Of Coyote, brisk and hale,
 Arrow up the bitter air
 Before we said our Christmas prayer.

Poetry
 Corner



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